



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

February 14, 2023

SHAWN E. COWLES  
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL  
FOR CIVIL LITIGATION  
DIRECT DIAL: (512) 936-1378

*Via: Electronic Mail*

Ana Vieira Ayala  
Assistant General Counsel  
The University of Texas System  
210 West Seventh Street  
Austin, Texas 78701-2981

Re: **Cause No. 5:23-cv-00007**; *Stewart v. Tex. Tech Univ. Health Sciences Ctr., et al.*; In the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas

Dear Ms. Ayala:

Thank you for your patience as we consider your request for representation and for outside counsel in the above-referenced case.

Our Agency has long taken the position that the central arguments advanced by the plaintiffs here are fundamentally correct: “using race and sex preferences in student admissions [is] a practice that violates the clear and unequivocal text of Title VI and Title IX, as well as the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.” Complaint at 3.

What’s more, this issue is likely to be resolved in a pair of cases argued before the United States Supreme Court in October 2022: *Students for Fair Admissions v. Univ. of North Carolina, et al.* (No. 21-707) and *Students for Fair Admissions v. President & Fellows of Harvard College* (No. 20-1199). The Court will issue its decision and opinion sometime this spring. Our Agency has filed amicus briefs in support of petitioners in these cases, which urge the Court to make clear that race-based admissions are abhorrent to the Constitution and the concept of Equal Protection.

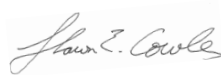
For these reasons, we are choosing at this time to withhold a decision on your request for representation and for outside counsel. We advise you that as of the date of this letter, we do not represent you in this litigation, and there is no attorney-client relationship between your institution and the Office of the Attorney General regarding this litigation unless and until we determine to accept your request for representation.

However, we understand that court deadlines are approaching. By this letter, you are authorized to self-represent for the limited purpose of seeking an extension of time to file a

responsive pleading, citing this letter as the basis for those requests. We would be happy to provide examples of previously filed motions for extension of time from other cases upon request.

Please contact me with any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Shawn E. Cowles".

Shawn E. Cowles  
Deputy Attorney General  
for Civil Litigation

SEC/rjr

cc: Chris Hilton, Chief, General Litigation Division